

focused on aspects of so-called critical race theory and cited such dubious items as the 1619 Project. The notice the Department of Education released last week dropped this discussion and indicated that the Department would not give a competitive advantage to applications that reflect critical race theory.

The bipartisan program in question was established to strengthen American history and civics education, which is in a bad way. Just 15 percent of eighth graders demonstrate proficiency in American history, according to the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress results. A 2019 survey found that just 4 in 10 American adults were capable of passing a U.S. citizenship test. Yet the Biden administration was apparently ready to compound this problem by pushing ideas rooted in critical race theory—a radical, leftist ideology.

As it is currently being pushed, critical race theory advances the idea that America is not merely flawed but inherently and systematically evil and that fixing this problem requires tearing down our institutions.

I don't need to tell anyone that the United States has an imperfect history, and any genuine approach to American history has to examine those times when we failed to live up to our ideals as well as those times when we have succeeded. But while there are sins in our past that we cannot ignore, like the great sins of slavery and segregation, there is also greatness.

Our Founders did something that was pretty much unprecedented in the history of the world. They sat down and built a country based not on who conquered whom but on a set of principles, on a shared belief in liberty and unalienable human rights. While we haven't always lived up to those beliefs, we have never stopped trying, and we continue to hold out the promise of liberty not only to our country but to the whole world. There is a reason individuals around the globe have fled to these shores for the promise of freedom and have found in the United States the refuge they were searching for.

Critical race theory distorts the reality of American history. It sees our failures but none of our successes. More than that, it actively misrepresents our history. The 1619 Project, for example, advances the totally fabricated claim that a primary motivation for the American Revolution was a desire to preserve slavery. That couldn't be further from the truth. It is no surprise that leading historians have criticized the 1619 Project for its historical distortions and factual inaccuracies.

On top of that, by demonizing the United States, critical race theory also invites students to despise our country and ignore the tremendous freedoms and blessings that we enjoy. We are incredibly fortunate to live in the United States of America, and we let our students down when we fail to give them

the perspective to see the blessings our country provides.

By dividing the world into oppressors and oppressed, critical race theory promotes resentment and victimization. It encourages individuals to look at the world through one lens and one lens only and tends to reduce individuals to little more than their racial background.

I am glad that the Department of Education chose not to give preference to applicants with a focus on the radical ideas of critical race theory. This was good news for America's students, who deserve a balanced accounting of our Nation's history, which critical race theory does not provide.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks before the vote starts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is still a lot of reason to be concerned. The Department's reversal was cloaked in bureaucratic language, leaving room for a future flip-flop by the administration. Too many schools around the country are already considering or adopting outlandish proposals informed by critical race theory, from a math course that suggests that focusing on the right answer in math is grounded in racism to materials implying that the nuclear family is somehow inherently racist.

This is a grave disservice to students of all races, and we need to make sure that Federal education dollars are going to genuine history and civics education and not radical propaganda. We owe all American students better than historically inaccurate history lessons.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON KIM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kim nomination?

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 279 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Cornyn	Kelly
Bennet	Cortez Masto	King
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Blunt	Durbin	Leahy
Booker	Feinstein	Luján
Brown	Gillibrand	Manchin
Cantwell	Graham	Markey
Capito	Grassley	Menendez
Cardin	Hassan	Merkley
Carper	Heinrich	Murkowski
Casey	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Collins	Hirono	Murray
Coons	Kaine	Ossoff

Padilla	Shaheen	Warner
Peters	Sinema	Warnock
Reed	Smith	Warren
Rosen	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Sanders	Tester	Wyden
Schatz	Tillis	
Schumer	Van Hollen	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Hoeven	Romney
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Hagerty	Portman	

NOT VOTING—1

Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from further consideration of the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. As a reminder to all Members, the official photograph of the 117th Congress will be at 2:15 p.m. Senators are asked to be on the floor at that time. Following the photograph, the Senate will reconvene and resume consideration of the motion to discharge the Stone-Manning nomination. Senators should expect the vote on the motion to discharge to occur around 5 p.m. today.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:38 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:37 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).